

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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- 1 1. A method for controlling a power state of a subsystem, comprising:
2 receiving from the subsystem a message; and
3 setting the power state of the subsystem based on the message.
 - 1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the message is selected from the group
2 consisting of a full wakeup, a limited wakeup, a resume previous state, and a status
3 request.
 - 1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein setting the power state of the subsystem
2 based on the message further comprises acknowledging a received subsystem message.
 - 1 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving from the subsystem a message is
2 performed without involvement of a main operating system.
 - 1 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein setting the power state of the subsystem
2 based on the message is performed without involvement of a main operating system.

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- 1 6. A method for controlling a power state of a subsystem, comprising:
2 receiving from a controller a message; and
3 performing an operation based on the message.
- 1 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the message is selected from the group
2 consisting of shutdown, synchronize, status request, and reset.
- 1 8. The method according to claim 6, wherein performing an operation based on the
2 message further comprises acknowledging a received controller message.
- 1 9. The method according to claim 6, wherein receiving from a controller a message is
2 performed without involvement of a main operating system.
- 1 10. The method according to claim 6, wherein performing an operation based on the
2 message is performed without involvement of a main operating system.
- 1 11. The method according to claim 6, wherein performing an operation based on the
2 message is substantially performed by the subsystem.

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1 12. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when
2 executed by a processor, causes said processor to perform the following:

- 3 receive input signals;
4 communicate with a subsystem;
5 determine a desired power state for the subsystem based upon received input
6 signals and communications with the subsystem; and
7 communicate to the subsystem the desired power state.

1 13. The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein receive input signals
2 comprises receiving a user initiated signal, or receiving a signal indicative of remaining
3 battery capacity, or a combination of receiving a user initiated signal and receiving a
4 signal indicative of remaining battery capacity.

1 14. The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein communicate with a
2 subsystem further comprises the subsystem to acknowledge a communication.

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1 15. A system, comprising:
2 an power state controller having an input port, an output port, and a
3 communications channel;
4 a user input coupled to the power state controller input port;
5 an energy monitor signal coupled to the power state controller input port; and
6 a subsystem coupled to the power state controller output port and the power state
7 controller communications channel.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the user input is a switch to turn the system on and
2 off.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the energy monitor signal is indicative of a
2 remaining battery capacity.

1 18. An apparatus for controlling subsystem power, comprising:
2 means for receiving input signals;
3 means for communicating with a subsystem;
4 means for determining a desired power state for the subsystem based upon the
5 received input signals and communications with the subsystem; and
6 means for communicating to the subsystem the desired power state.

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1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein means for receiving input signals comprises
2 means for receiving a user initiated signal, or means for receiving a signal indicative of
3 remaining battery capacity, or a combination of means for receiving a user initiated signal
4 and means for receiving a signal indicative of remaining battery capacity.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein means for communicating with a subsystem
2 further comprises means for the subsystem to acknowledge a communication

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1 21. A computer based system, comprising:
2 an energy source;
3 a monitoring device coupled to the energy source and providing a signal indicative
4 of remaining energy capacity;
5 a power state controller coupled to the signal indicative of remaining energy
6 capacity;
7 a subsystem coupled to the power state controller; and
8 a communications link coupling the power state controller to the subsystem.

1 22. The computer based system according to claim 21, wherein the communications link
2 coupling the power state controller to the subsystem comprises a link having lower
3 bandwidth than a main system bus in the computer based system.

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- 1 23. The computer based system according to claim 21, wherein the communications link
- 2 is operable without the use of a main operating system.

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